

**PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 8, 2015
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
ROOM 208
MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT**

Members Present: Councilman Carl R. Chisem
Councilman James B. Streeto
Councilman Thomas Serra
Councilman David Bauer
Councilwoman Sandra Russo-Driska

Staff Present: William Russo, Director of Public Works

Others Present:

Ron Krom, 23 Mazzotta Place
Jan Liesener, 210 Maple Shade Road
Jessica Broderick, 12 Pearl Street
Joseph Fazzino, 12 Pearl Street
Amy Vaillancourt, 235 Hunting Hill Avenue
Elena Villafana, 235 Court Street
Jennifer Kleindienst, 241 West Street
Patrick McKenna, 66 Ward Street
Krishna Winston, 655 Bow Lane

Beth Emery, 64 Church Street
Mark Meyering, 129 Paterson Drive
Trevor Davis, 585 Arbutus Street
Janice Meyer, Regional Planning
Cindi Perugini, 243 Bartholomew Road
Susan Hall, 555 Main Street
Deb Stanley, 932 Saybrook Road
Kate Miller, 345 Boston Road

Chair Chisem opened the Public Works & Facilities Commission meeting at 7:00 P.M. He requested a motion to approve the minutes dated June 23, 2015. Motion to approve the minutes was seconded and approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

John Hall, Complete Streets Committee & Jonah Center for Earth & Art, came to speak about the proposed ordinance regarding the Complete Streets Committee. The committee was formed in the fall of 2011 and came up with a complete streets master plan which is available online. The plan was completed in March of 2013. The point of the plan is to identify the key routes and key areas of interest that are wanted to be accessible by bicycle and areas of importance to pedestrians. The plan was adopted by the Planning & Zoning Commission into the plan of Conservation and Development in March of 2014. This past March, the committee came before the Public Works & Facilities Commission and showed a slide show which identified in detail the most critical areas to bicyclists and pedestrians in the downtown and commercial areas to the city and the parks.

The Veteran's Park is mostly focused on because it connects common areas of town. The point of the ordinance is to integrate the concern for pedestrians and bicyclists into all of the plans as a matter of routine. When future work is being done on a roadway for road bonds, the work towards including pedestrian and bicyclist friendly trails can be built into the improvements. The intersection of West Street and Washington Street are going to have improvements with pedestrian light buttons. The West

Street bridge crossing will also be more pedestrian friendly. The main point is to establish a process to include the safety of the Middletown residents.

Krishna Winston, 655 Bow Lane and President of the Jonah Center for Earth & Art, wanted to speak in favor of this ordinance. She believes the needs of all of the users of the street can be accommodated. The Jonah Center has advocated the improvements of the environment in such a way that people can live healthfully. She is hoping that the ordinance will be voted upon for a healthy life for the citizens.

Patrick McKenna, 66 Ward Street, spoke about the lack of sidewalks in his nearby area. He wants to encourage the adoption of any policies that will make the streets safer for all users.

Kate Miller, 345 Boston Road & Chair of Conservation Commission, wants to support the local teenagers to be able to ride their bikes downtown.

The ordinance will be discussed and approved by the Public Works & Facilities Commission first. It will then go to Ordinance Review and then to the Council. Councilman Serra requested to the Chair that if any road work is being done without including Complete Streets plans, that the commission be made aware.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Complete Streets Ordinance – Commissioner Bauer made a motion to postpone the vote on the Complete Streets Ordinance until the construction season in November due to some wording issues.

Commissioner Russo-Driska asked how long it would take to get the data together that Councilman Serra has asked for. John Hall said that it could be a large project to compile all of the information and that the ordinance is to establish a communication process.

Councilman Serra stated that a park bond would be needed this November. The plan should be compared to the parks and athletic fields projected improvements. When road bonds come about, the Complete Streets plan can be included into those plans so they can be included into the road bonds.

Director Russo stated that the Complete Streets plan can be implemented into the road bond plan as far as funds go.

Councilman Bauer stated that he is mindful that it is this commission that will lead towards a successful completion in November. There is a lot of work and public discussion towards making the plan work for everybody. He does however, see some issues regarding getting questions answered while still getting through the road construction season. The commission needs to do their homework so that all of the programs that are already in place can be worked through.

Commissioner Russo-Driska asked John Hall if the City Attorney has seen the ordinance. John Hall stated that the City Attorney, Brig Smith was the one that wrote the ordinance. The General

Counsel Commission however, has not seen the ordinance yet. John Hall stated that they would not consider it until the Public Works & Facilities commission has endorsed it. The state complete streets law uses the figure of 1% of aggregate transportation improvement spending to go to the pedestrian and bicyclist improvements.

The motion on the floor was discussed as far as postponing the discussion until the November agenda. Councilwoman Russo-Driska seconded the motion. Motion was seconded and approved.

- b. CNR Wish List – Director Russo stated that at the request of the commission, he had the guys from the city yard put a list together. He stated that the original request was for 1.3 million and it was cut down to \$717,000.00. Everything that will be replaced is close to 20 years old. A couple of the cars are 15 years old and are constantly being sent to the shop for repairs.

Councilman Bauer stated that he would like to see what the inventory looks like as far as the age. In some respects, planning for a bigger amplitude of weather events going forward, the entire populous of a city would be glad to see the preparedness for implement weather.

Councilman Serra stated that since there is only \$600,000.00, he recommended that this commission can endorse another bond because of the age and the safety issues.

Councilwoman Russo-Driska asked Director Russo if he would be comfortable removing the cars and the trucks from the wish list so that it can be sent to the council that way because of the bonding issue. Things are being bonded that don't have the lifespan of the bond.

Director Russo stated that if the commission endorsed the list, it would be sent to Finance & Government. He has looked into leasing the equipment and vehicles, and it would end up costing more in the end.

Councilman Serra stated that the conditions of the vehicles are not good and that the list should just be sent on as is.

Councilwoman Russo-Driska made a motion to send the list to Finance & Government. Councilman Bauer seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Issues with the showmobile being 33 years old and its conditions were discussed. It is time for it to be looked at as far as a safety situation goes. Councilman Serra asked Director Russo to look into the issue and report back to the commission with a solution and final price.

- c. Building Permit Refunds:
 - 1. Aiello Home Services: \$100.82 - approved.
 - 2. Aiello Home Services: \$100.82 - approved.
 - 3. J T Burke & Sons, Inc.: \$143.60 - approved.
 - 4. Tina Lun: \$29.52 - approved.

A motion to forward the 4 building permit refunds to the Council with the suggestion for approval. Motion was seconded and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

June 2015 Public Works Overtime Report – Director Russo stated that the Parks Department did not use up all of the overtime money. An appropriation was needed for the snow overtime but the emergency overtime was also under budget. Efficiency is constantly being worked on.

- a. June 2015 Building Permits – \$570,000.00 was projected in building permits and \$587,000.00 was collected in total.

OTHER:

- a. June 2015 Monthly Report – Highway Division – The Public Works & Facilities commission reviewed their June 2015 monthly reports.
- b. June 2015 Overtime Report – Parks Division – The Public Works & Facilities commission reviewed their June 2015 overtime reports.

One of the councilmen asked about a rain storm that occurred at the end of June and wanted to know more about the procedures during significant wind storms. Director Russo stated that wherever there is not a power line, the Public Works crew goes out with a pay loader and opens up the roads so that emergency vehicles can get through. Once everything is open, the crews will go back and cut up the trees to remove them.

Councilman Serra moved that items 6 & 7 be approved. Councilwoman Russo-Driska seconded the movement. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Councilwoman Russo-Driska asked about the timeline for the park bond. The council clerk sent out a July 21st meeting date. She requested to make a motion to discuss this on the next agenda since bonds have to be posted to the public for 60 days. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

As there was no further discussion, the Public Works & Facilities commission meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.